



Public Notice

Applicant:

Erie Sand Steamship Co.

Date:

Published: Sept. 26, 2000

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**U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers**

In Reply Refer To:

Buffalo District **CELRB-CO-R** RE: 90-477-24(1) **Section:** OH 10 and 404

**Application for Permit under Authority of
Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and
Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).**

Erie Sand Steamship Company, 2 East Bay Drive, Port Access Road, Erie, Pennsylvania 16507, has applied for a Department of the Army permit to dredge sand and gravel for commercial purposes in established dredge areas off of Vermilion-Lorain Harbor, Lorain County, Ohio, and Fairport Harbor, Lake County, Ohio.

The applicant proposes to hydraulically dredge approximately 300,000 cubic yards of sand and gravel annually from three established dredge areas in Lake Erie. The dredged material will be wet screened aboard the dredge vessel and the water and fines (liquid phase dredged material) will be returned to Lake Erie in the established dredging area. Sand and gravel will be brought ashore for commercial purposes.

Dredging is proposed in three areas in Lake Erie. The Vermillion-Lorain Inner Area is a rectangle 11 miles long and 4 miles wide. The long axis is oriented in a northeast-southwest direction with its southeast corner 33,400 feet, azimuth 1° -30' off of the Lorain West Breakwater Light. The shoreward limit of the area is 6 miles offshore (Figure 1). The northerly side of the Vermillion-Lorain Outer Area is parallel to and 1 mile shoreward of the International Boundary Line. It extends 2 miles on either side of the angle in said line. The east side of this area is 6 miles long and extends southeasterly from the northeast corner. The west side is 4 miles long and extends due south from the northwest corner of the area. The south side is 6-3/4 miles long and extends in an east-west direction. The southeast corner is 54,800 feet, azimuth 327° off of the Lorain West Breakwater Light. The shoreward limit of this area is 12 miles offshore (Figure 1). The Fairport Area is a rectangle 1-3/4 miles long and 3/4 mile wide, with its long axis oriented in a northeast-southwest direction. The southwest corner is 34,600 feet, azimuth 289° -10' from the West Breakwater Light marking the entrance to Fairport Harbor. The shoreward limit of the area is 5-1/4 miles offshore (Figure 2).

The applicant's current Department of the Army permits (No. 90-477-24 and No. 95-541-2) for work described above will expire November 14, 2000.

The decision to approve or deny this permit request will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Alan R. Amarchekko-Resemann
for Paul G. Leuchner
Chief, Regulatory Branch

NOTICE TO POSTMASTER: It is requested that this notice be posted continuously and conspicuously for 30 days from the date of issuance.

SITE OF PROPOSED DREDGING

